

VERMONT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

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We're on the web!!
www.state.vt.us/treasurer

Special points of Interest -

- Handbooks
- Purchased Service
- Military Study
- Survey

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Updated Handbooks

A copy of the new revised handbook for **Group C** members is enclosed. Please review the summary of your benefits carefully, then file the handbook in a handy place for easy referral. You may discard any previous versions you have to avoid confusion.

The new handbook includes all of the changes that have occurred in the system over the last several years, including those enacted during the last legislative session as

outlined below:

- Provision to purchase up to 5 years of "air time" upon attainment of 25 years of service;
- Expansion of military service available for purchase from 3 years to a maximum of 5 years;
- Reduction in the required number of years to be vested from 10 to 5.



Purchase of Service Credit

Purchasing service has become a topic of great interest for many members who wish to retire earlier than age 62, but do not have the required 30 years of service to avoid an early retirement reduction. The following is a list of the types of service that are currently available for purchase:

- Rendered service in the capacity of a

teacher in grades K-12 in an approved public, independent, parochial, or private school, providing such service is not already included in your current membership;

- Previous Vermont service lost as the result of a withdrawal from membership;

- Years of service as a Vermont teacher during which you exercised your option not to become a contributing member of the system;

- Military service, Peace Corps or VISTA service served prior to becoming a member of the system, providing you have 15



Purchase of Service Credit (continued)

creditable service and have no other benefit available from such service;

- Service rendered as a state or municipal employee;
- "Air time", up to a maximum of 5 years. "Air time" does not represent any type of actual service performed, but does mandate the member have a minimum of 25 years of service before a purchase can be made.

Available service may be purchase at any time *prior* to retirement.

The cost to purchase service is based on salary and age at the time the purchase is made. For example, a 50-year-old group C member earning an annual salary of \$40,000 would pay \$6,615.60 per year. **The maximum amount of service that may be purchased is 10 years, plus 5 years of military service, plus 5 years of "air time" for a total of 20 years.**

If you are interest in learning more about your options to purchase credit, please call the Retirement Office at 1-800-642-3191 or 828-2305.

State Treasurer Conducts Study of Military Service Credit

Legislation enacted during the 2000 session directed the State Treasurer to conduct a comprehensive study of the military service credit in the State Employees' Retirement System, the State Teachers' Retirement System, and the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, and report findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2001.

The Treasurer's Office is requesting your assistance in gathering the data necessary to complete the study.

If you served a minimum of one full year in the military in any capacity prior to becoming a member of the system, please complete the questionnaire below and return it to the State Treasurer's Office, Retirement Division, 133 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont, 05633-6901 on or before December 15, 2000.

MILITARY SURVEY

✂
Please cut
on the line
above &
return by
12/15/00.
Thanks
for your
assistance.

1. How many years do you have of full-time military service? _____
2. What were your dates of entry and discharge? _____
3. Are you currently receiving any military pension benefit from your military service, or will you be entitled to receive a military pension benefit at a future date? YES _____ NO _____
4. If still serving in the Guard or reserve and have not yet reached 20 years, check here: _____
5. Have you received credit in your Teachers' Retirement Plan for your military service? YES _____ NO _____
If yes, was the service PURCHASED _____ or GRANTED _____
6. How many years of creditable years of service do you have? _____

Name (optional) _____